

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yoshitaka Asou et al.

Serial No.: 10/783,680

Filed: February 20, 2004

For: BLACK HEXAVALENT  
CHROMIUM-FREE PLATING  
TREATMENT SYSTEM

Patent Examiner: Zheng, Lois L

Group Art Unit: 1793

Confirmation No. 6994

Costa Mesa, California 92626

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

1. I, Yoshitaka Asou, am an employee of Nitto Seiko Co., Ltd., assignee of the above identified application.

2. Attached hereto are specimens of screws that were processed by a method of plating the basic screw body with zinc and subsequently activating the surface of the zinc plated coating on the screw by a dilute nitric acid activation step. Subsequently, the activated metal part was washed with water to remove the nitric acid components.

3. A black regulation coating was then formed on the activated metal part of the screw by an inorganic salt solution containing trivalent chromium and iron components of the main ingredients. This produced a black chromic finish.

4. The screws were subsequently rinsed with water and a specimen of the screw processed only through the black chromic treatment step is attached hereto in a specimen bag labeled "B".

5. A random sample from the rinsed specimen of step 4 was subject to a finish treatment by forming a transparent conversion coating on the specimen. The transparent conversion coating was made of a solution of inorganic salt and organic acid containing trivalent chromium and silica as main ingredients. The specimen was then dried and a sample is attached hereto in the specimen bag labeled "B+C".

6. A visual inspection of the specimens provided in the bags labeled "B" and "B+C" reveals a transparent luster is formed on the specimens of bag "B+C". The results clearly indicates that the conversion coating claimed in Applicant's disclosure provides a transparent conversion coating.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the

Rule 132 Declaration  
Application Serial No. 10/783,680  
Attorney Docket No. 52469-0100

United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Executed on July 9, 2008, at Osaka, Japan.

Yasutaka Aso